

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01

ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-01

OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSF-01 OES-03

OMB-01 SAL-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 EUR-12 /133 W

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R 290912Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6473

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR JA

SUBJ: DIET DEBATE OPENS

SUMMARY. IN THREE DAYS OF DIET INTERPELLATIONS JANUARY
26-28, PRIME MINISTER MIKI ADOPTED PERCEPTIBLY HIGHER
POSTURE TOWARD OPPOSITION IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S
STANCE OF "DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION." THE TWO HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE DEBATE -- MIKI'S STATEMENT ON TERRITORIAL SEA
AND LOS ISSUES, AND DSP CHAIRMAN' KASUGA'S ATTACK ON JCP
CHARIMAN MIYAMOTO -- WHICH AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST
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HERE, HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN SEPTELS. MIKI COVERED

FAMILIAR GROUND ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, ASSERTING GOJ ECONOMIC POLICY TO BE CORRECT AND HOLDING GROUND ON RIGHT-TO-STRIKE AND ANTI-TRUST ISSUES. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MIKI REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO SECURE RATIFICATION OF NPT AND JAPAN-KOREA CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT AT CURRENT SESSION AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR JAPAN-CHINA PFT AND PEACE TREATY WITH SOVIETS AFTER THE TERRITORIAL PROBLEM IS SOLVED. MIKI'S NON-CONCILIATORY POSTURE IS GENERALLY AGREEABLE TO THE LDP, BUT THE MEDIA HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY CRITICAL OF HIS LACK OF CONCRETENESS IN PRESENTING HIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1.DURING UPPER AND LOWER HOUSE INTERPELLATIONS JANUARY 26-28, PRIMIN MIKI PERCEPTIBLY SHIFTED GEARS FROM LAST YEAR'S POSTURE OF "DIALOGUE AND COMPROMISE" WITH THE OPPOSITION TO ONE OF CAREFULLY MEASURED CONFRONTATION. HE DISPLAYED THIS CHANGED ATTITUDE IN SEVERAL WAYS. IN RESPONDING TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR MORE STIMULATIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES, HE REMAINED UNYIELDING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY, CLAIMING IT HAS BEEN THE BEST UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND FLATLY REFUSING TO TAKE OPPOSITION VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT IN THE BUDGET. HE REPEATEDLY TURNED ASIDE OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR REINTRODUCTION OF THE ANTI-MONOPOLY LAW REVISION BILL, STATING THAT HE WOULD DO SO ONLY AFTER A CONSENSUS (I.E., WITHIN THE LDP) HAD BEEN REACHED. HE BLUNTLY STATED THAT THE GRANTING OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE TO PUBLIC ENTERPRISE UNIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AFTER THEY AGREED TO DISCONTINUE ILLEGAL STRIKES. HE TURNED AROUND AN OPPOSITION ATTACK ON THE US-JAPAN MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY BY ASKING WHAT THE SITUATION OF JAPAN'S PEACE AND SECURITY WOULD BE NOW IF THE JSP'S POLICY OF "UNARMED NEUTRALITY" HAD BEEN FOLLOWED.

2. THE TWO HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERPELLATIONS -- MIKI'S STATEMENT ON TERRITORIAL SEA/LOS ISSUES, AND DSP CHAIRMAN KASUGA'S ATTACK ON JCP CHAIRMAN MIYAMOTO -- BOTH OF WHICH ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST HERE, HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN SEPTELS.

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3. FOREIGN POLICY HIGHLIGHTS. ON PENDING TREATY ISSUES, MIKI REITERATED THE POSITION TAKEN IN HIS JANUARY 23 POLICY SPEECH THAT HE HOPED TO SECURE NPT RATIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF THE JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT DURING THIS DIET SESSION; THAT WITH DEEPENING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE "HEGEMONY" ISSUE THERE WERE NO MAJOR BARRIERS TO THE CONCLUSION OF A PFT WITH THE PRC; AND THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK SOVIET RETURN OF THE NORTHERN

TERRITORIES, AFTER WHICH A PEACE TREATY MIGHT BE CON-
CLUDED WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. DURING THE COURSE OF THE THREE DAYS OF UPPER AND
LOWER HOUSE INTERPELLATIONS, MIKI HAS OUTLINED HIS POLICY
CLEARLY AND CAREFULLY. THROUGH HIS INFLEXIBLE RESPONSES
TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY ON THE ANTI-MONOPOLY
LAW REVISION BILL AND RIGHT-TO-STRIKE ISSUE, HE HAS
MAINTAINED A POSTURE GENERALLY AGREEABLE TO THE LDP AS
A WHOLE, THOUGH AT SOME COST TO HIS CONCILIATORY
PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY WHICH PROMPTED LDP CRITICISM AT
LAST YEAR'S REGULAR DIET SESSION. FEW LDP LEADERS WOULD
BE ABLE TO FIND FALT WITH MIKI'S CURRENT PERFORMANCE
THUS FAR.

5. CHARACTERISTICALLY, HOWEVER, THE MEDIA HAS FOUND
MIKI'S PERFORMANCE WANTING. WHILE IT HAS NOT IN GENERAL
TAKEN SPECIFIC ISSUE WITH MIKI'S PROGRAM, IT HAS CRITI-
CIZED HIS FAILURE TO BE MORE CONCRETE ABOUT HIS PLANS
FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, UNEMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE, ETC.,
AND HIS LONG AND RAMBLING STYLE IN ANSWERING OPPOSITION
QUESTIONS. THE MEDIA HAS INTERPRETED MIKI'S CONFRONTATION
POSTURE AS A SURE SIGN OF A BUILDING "ELECTION MOOD," AS
BOTH MIKI AND THE OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMAN STRIVE TO
DIFFERENTIATE THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICIES TOWARD VARIOUS
ISSUES.

6. LOWER HOUSE ACTION SHIFTED TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29 WHERE INTERPELLATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE
UNTIL FEBRUARY 6.
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